Montana Streamflow Conditions, 2021

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Current Streamflow Conditions for Montana

- August 8 rains temporally increased flow.
- 7 to 28 day and longer averages are below to much below normal.
Streamflow Trends Since Early July

% of Normal sites increasing since 7/30.

% of Low sites are staying the same.

Sites are at/or near the record low flows for the day.

Only sites with 30 yrs of record and no missing values.
How low was the streamflow in July? A historical perspective.

28-Day Average Streamflow
Let’s take a closer look at NW Montana.

[Map and bar chart showing average streamflow for different years at the Yaak River near Troy, with notes that 2021 and 1977 are tied for lowest July flow.]
Let’s take a closer look Eastern Montana.

- Average streamflow during 2021
- Lowest average streamflow in the past 20 years.
- Lowest average streamflow on record.
- Period of record average streamflow.
Let’s take a closer look at SW Montana.
Let’s take a closer look at WC Montana.
Takeaway Message

- July 2021 was low
  - Not a record for sites that data extends back to the 1930-40’s
- April – July 31, streamflows look “better” as conditions during runoff were not as low as July.
- Some daily record lows were set, generally sites with a shorter period of record.
- Only a snapshot of conditions right now.
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https://www.usgs.gov/centers/wy-mt-water

https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/?aoi=state-mt

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